

Fred Ferguson

Congressional Medal of Honor Grand Marshal

2001 Veterans Day Parade

Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Frederick Ferguson, U.S. Army, unhesitatingly volunteered to attempt evacuation of wounded soldiers during the Vietnam War. Despite warnings from all aircraft to stay clear of the city of Hue, CWO Ferguson began a low-level flight, at maximum airspeed, along the Perfume River. He headed toward the tiny, isolated South Vietnamese Army compound where crash survivors had taken refuge.

In the face of intense, short range fire from enemy occupied buildings and boats, he displayed superior flying skill and tenacity of purpose by landing his aircraft in an extremely confined area. While on the ground, loading the wounded, he was faced with a blinding dust cloud of heavy mortar and small arms fire.

Although the helicopter was severely damaged during the mission, CWO Ferguson disregarded the destruction and, taking off through the continuing hail of mortar fire, he flew his crippled aircraft on the return route. He safely returned his wounded passengers to friendly control. CWO Ferguson's extraordinary determination saved the lives of five of his comrades.

These acts of bravery earned him the prestigious Congressional Medal of Honor. This medal was personally presented to Fred Ferguson by President Richard Nixon on the South Lawn of the White House.

He was cited for his individual gallantry at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. Those who receive the award are called recipients, since there is no competition or contest. It is earned by their sacrifice.

Because of his heroics and concern for his fellow man, we are honored to have Fred Ferguson as one of our Grand Marshals for the City of Phoenix and Carl T. Hayden Veterans Affairs Medical Center's 2001 Veterans Day Parade.

